

IN THE CLAIMS:

A full listing of the claims, including any amendments made by this paper follows below:

1. (Currently Amended) A feed grip for being coupled to a slide rod of a slicer comprising:

a gripping plate having a front surface and rear surface, said front surface being shaped to grip a food product, said gripping plate including an attachment portion extending generally outwardly from said rear surface, said attachment portion including a pair of opposed, generally laterally extending feet;

a handle having an opening shaped to releasably receive said attachment portion therein such that said attachment portion can be generally rigidly coupled to said handle, and wherein said attachment portion can be manually decoupled, without the use of tools, from said handle such that said attachment portion and said handle are not generally rigidly coupled; and

a feed arm including a pair of annulus, a first one of said annulus being shaped to be generally located between said handle and said gripping plate, a second one of said annulus being shaped to receive said slide rod of said slicer therethrough.

2. (Currently Amended) The feed grip of claim 1 further comprising a wave washer located between said handle and said feed arm or between said feed arm and said gripping plate such that when said wave washer is compressed said wave washer urges ~~the adjacent components away from each other~~ said handle away from said gripping plate and/or said feed arm.

3. (Currently Amended) The feed grip of claim 1 wherein said gripping plate includes a plurality of teeth extending generally forwardly from said front ~~side~~ surface.

4. (Currently Amended) The feed grip of claim 3 wherein ~~each of said teeth has a said~~ plurality of teeth each have a length of between about 8.89 mm and about 10.16 mm (about 0.35

and about 0.40 inches) and ~~has~~ have a tip diameter of between about 1.27 mm and about 3.81 mm (about 0.05 inches to about 0.15 inches).

5. (Original) The feed grip of claim 1 wherein said first one of said annulus is shaped to receive said attachment portion of said gripping plate therethrough.

6. (Original) The feed grip of claim 5 wherein said feed arm includes a connecting arm coupled to and extending between both of said annulus.

7. (Original) The feed grip of claim 1 wherein said attachment portion includes a pair of spaced generally parallel legs, each leg being coupled to one of said feet, and wherein said opening of said handle includes a pair of opposed end openings, each end opening being shaped to receive one of said feet therein to couple said feed grip to said handle.

8. (Original) The feed grip of claim 7 wherein each foot extends generally outwardly from the associated leg and includes a curved outer surface.

9. (Original) The feed grip of claim 1 wherein said opening of said handle includes a generally inwardly tapered side wall such that said feet engage said side wall and are urged together when said attachment portion is urged into said opening.

10. (Original) The feed grip of claim 10 wherein said second one of said annulus contributes at least 50% of the weight of said feed grip.

11. (Withdrawn) A slicer comprising:

a) a slicer body having a rotatable blade mounted thereon and a motor for rotatably driving said blade; and

b) a carriage including a support surface for supporting a product to be sliced, said carriage being mounted for reciprocal movement relative to said body to bring a product to be sliced into and out of contact with said blade, said carriage including a slide rod located adjacent

to said support surface and a feed grip that is slidable along said support surface in a direction generally perpendicular to the reciprocal movement of said carriage, said feed grip including:

- i) a gripping plate having a front surface and rear surface, said front surface being shaped to grip a food product, said gripping plate including an attachment portion extending generally outwardly from said rear surface, said attachment portion including a pair of opposed, generally laterally extending feet;
- ii) a handle having an opening releasably receiving said attachment portion therein; and
- iii) a feed arm located generally between said handle and said gripping plate, said feed arm including a slide rod portion receiving said slide rod of said slicer therethrough.

12. (Withdrawn) A feed grip installable on a slide rod of a slicer comprising: a gripping plate assembly formed by a plate member having a recess, an attachment portion positioned in and extending from said recess, and an overmold layer covering said plate member and at least a portion of said attachment portion to secure said attachment portion in said recess and prevent said attachment portion from rotating relative to said plate member.

13. (Withdrawn) The feed grip of claim 12 further including a handle having an opening and wherein said attachment portion includes at least two spaced, flexible legs for removably coupling said attachment portion to said handle.

14. (Withdrawn) The feed grip of claim 13 wherein each leg includes a generally outwardly extending foot located at an end thereof, and wherein said handle includes a pair of opposed end openings, each end opening being shaped and located to receive one of said feet therein to removably couple said attachment portion to said handle.

15. (Withdrawn) The feed grip of claim 14 wherein said opening of said handle includes a generally inwardly tapered side wall such that said feet engage said side wall and are urged together when said attachment portion is urged into said opening.

16. (New) A feed grip for being coupled to a slide rod of a slicer comprising:

a gripping plate having a front surface and rear surface, said front surface being shaped to grip a food product, said gripping plate including an attachment portion extending generally outwardly from said rear surface, said attachment portion including a pair of opposed, generally laterally extending feet;

a generally tube-shaped handle having a central opening shaped to releasably receive said attachment portion therein, said handle having a closed axial end with a continuous outer surface such that said closed axial end lacks any auxiliary openings that communicate with said central opening; and

a feed arm including a pair of annulus, a first one of said annulus being shaped to be generally located between said handle and said gripping plate, a second one of said annulus being shaped to receive said slide rod of said slicer therethrough.